



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARIZONA

# Fall 2025 (FY26) and Beyond Merit Aid Reduction Plan

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May 2024 | EM & UAIR*

# Background and Reminders

The models are conservative and built with limited application growth and significantly lower yield, due to:

- Market influences and an increasingly competitive landscape.
  - Declining demographics.
  - Possible reputation issues.
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- *The models utilize the planned tuition increase for AY24-25 (3% for non-residents and 2.5% for residents). As tuition goes up for AY25-26, NTR will also increase.*
  - *International merit aid is not yet included in the models. International merit to be determined soon.*
  - *Model results in lower academic quality, based on core GPA, and a smaller incoming class overall.*

# Merit Aid Scholarship Grid Comparison

CURRENT		
Fall 2024 First-Year, Domestic, Undergraduate Merit Awards		
Core GPA Range	Resident Awards	Non-Resident Awards
4.00	\$12,500	\$32,000
3.90-3.999	\$10,000	\$30,000
3.75-3.899	\$8,000	\$20,000
3.50-3.749	\$5,000	\$12,500
3.25-3.499	\$3,000	\$7,500
3.00-3.249	\$2,000	\$2,500
2.75-2.999	\$750	\$1,000

NEW		
Fall 2025 First-Year, Domestic, Undergraduate Merit Awards		
Core GPA Range	Resident Awards	Non-Resident Awards
4.00	\$11,000	\$20,000
3.90-3.999	\$8,000	\$20,000
3.75-3.899	\$8,000	\$16,000
3.50-3.749	\$5,000	\$12,500
3.25-3.499	\$3,000	\$7,500
3.00-3.249	\$2,000	\$4,000
2.75-2.999	\$0	\$0

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## Potential New Class Enrollment

Fall 2023	8,400
Fall 2025	7,100
Not including new AZO and International students.	

### The class we might expect with changes:

Residency		4.00 GPA	3.99-3.90	3.75-3.899	3.50-3.749	3.25-3.499	3.00-3.249	2.75-2.99	2.74-2.50
<b>Resident</b>	Fall 2023 (actual)	712	532	801	883	662	564	385	309
<b>Resident</b>	Fall 2025 (projected)	447	314	606	766	624	574	374	403
<b>Non-Resident</b>	Fall 2023 (actual)	532	410	538	565	436	414	317	337
<b>Non-Resident</b>	Fall 2025 (projected)	154	169	305	509	496	510	366	443

*Note: In Fall 2022, 784 4.00 Core GPA non-resident, domestic, first-year students enrolled.*

# NTR with changed merit for one domestic, main campus cohort

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## Fall 2025 cohort

Year 1: \$10M

Year 2: \$9M

Year 3: \$8M

Year 4: \$7M

\$34M over 4 years\*

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*\*Example only for years 2-4 assuming some retention. NOT OFFICIAL. For demonstration purposes only.  
\$10M used as baseline to accommodate new competitive scholarship program idea.*

# Potential Impact: Incoming GPA & First-Year Retention (domestic, main campus)

Unweighted, Core GPA   4.00 scale			
	Resident	Non-Resident	Overall
<b>Current</b>	3.52	3.54	3.53
<b>Plan</b>	3.42	3.29	3.37

Retention Rate	
<b>Current</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Plan</b>	<b>80-84%*</b>
*Aid changes <i>and</i> new IPEDS policy.	

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# Potential Impact: Diversity and Sex/Gender (domestic, main campus only)

Race / Ethnicity	New Merit Plan	Former Merit Plan
American Indian/Alaska Native	4.14%	4.51%
Asian	9.86%	8.25%
Black/African American	7.45%	6.15%
Hispanic/Latinx	31.43%	28.44%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.53%	0.86%
Not Reported	1.87%	1.33%
White	44.72%	50.46%
Sex/Gender	New Merit Plan	Former Merit Plan
Female	60.75%	59.7%
Male	39.25%	40.3%

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# Potential Impact by College: First-Year, Main Campus, Domestic Students Only

- data based on college in which a student *initially* enrolls
  - data suggests no other interventions
- data based on regression/yield by discount rate and GPA, not forecasted opportunities
  - data does not include new AZO or International students

College	Current	Proposal	Difference from actual	Percent change
<b>CALES</b>	618	460	-158	-25.6%
<b>Architecture</b>	184	139	-45	-24.5%
<b>Eller</b>	1834	1456	-378	-20.6%
<b>A Center</b>	791	771	-20	-2.5%
<b>Education</b>	124	130	6	4.8%
<b>Engineering</b>	697	502	-195	-28.0%
<b>Fine Arts</b>	278	232	-46	-16.5%
<b>Humanities</b>	69	70	1	1.4%
<b>Medicine</b>	782	597	-185	-23.7%
<b>Nursing</b>	260	191	-69	-26.5%
<b>Public Health</b>	63	53	-10	-15.9%
<b>Pharmacy</b>	110	61	-49	-44.5%
<b>SBS</b>	908	860	-48	-5.3%
<b>Science</b>	1691	1539	-152	-9.0%

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# Additional Merit Aid Reductions

- Change and reduce National Scholar Awards
- Change IB Tuition Award
- Return to pre-pandemic merit aid renewal criteria

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# Reminder: National Scholar Award Descriptions

## National Merit Finalists

- *High PSAT score, high HS GPA, selected as a Finalist, must select the University of Arizona as first-choice institution*

## National Recognition Scholars

- *Rural area/small town, African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Indigenous/Native American, and first-generation*

## National Merit Semifinalists

- *High PSAT, good HS GPA, not selected as a Finalist*

## Current:

### National Merit Finalists:

- Residents, \$18,000
- Non-Residents, \$3,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$32,000 + \$3,000 = \$35,000/year

### National Recognition Scholars:

- Residents, \$18,000
- Non-Residents, \$3,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$32,000 + \$3,000 = \$35,000/year

### National Merit Semifinalists:

- Residents, \$13,500/year
- Non-Residents, \$1,500/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$32,000 + \$1,500 = \$33,500/year

## Plan:

### National Merit Finalists:

- Residents, \$18,000
- Non-Residents, \$3,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$20,000 + \$3,000 = \$23,000/year

### National Recognition Scholars:

- Residents, \$1,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$11,000 + \$1,000 = \$12,000/year
- Non-Residents, \$1,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$20,000 + \$1,000 = \$21,000/year

### National Merit Semifinalists:

- Residents, \$1,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$11,000 + \$1,000 = \$12,000/year
- Non-Residents, \$1,000/year added to merit award
  - Example: 4.00 GPA = \$20,000 + \$1,000 = \$21,000/year

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**Estimated Savings:**  
\$1.25 to \$1.5M/year = \$5M to \$6M over 4 years

# Change and Reduce IB Tuition Scholarship

## Current Process

- Offered to **both resident and non-resident** high school graduates with an IB Diploma and earn a minimum of 24 IB credits.
- Up to \$5,000/year toward tuition.

## Planned Change

- Offered to **resident** high school graduates with an IB Diploma and earn a minimum of 24 IB credits.
- Up to \$3,000/year toward tuition.
  - Example 1: 4.00 GPA = \$11,000 + IB Award = base tuition amount
  - Example 2: 3.25 GPA = \$3,000 + \$3,000 IB Award = \$6,000/year

Estimated Savings: Approximately \$100K/year =  
\$400,000 over 4 years

# Return to Pre-Pandemic Merit Aid Renewal Criteria

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## Beginning with the entering class of fall 2025 (FY26):

- Discontinue the one-year probationary period currently automatically granted to students who have a 2.80-2.99 cumulative GPA.
    - Students may submit an appeal process for extenuating circumstances.
  - Renewal criteria to be 3.00 GPA and 30 UA units per calendar year.
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# Potential FY26 / FY27 Impact

## Fall 2025 | FY26:

### Potential Savings 2025 Cohort Example:

Merit Aid*	National Scholars	IB	One Year Estimate	Four Year Estimate
\$10M	\$1.25M	\$100K	\$11.35M	\$34M + \$5M + 400K = \$39.4M

*\*Merit aid savings will be reduced in years 2-4 due to retention and reflected in the four-year estimate. Actual merit aid savings for 2025 cohort will likely be more than \$10M. \$10M is listed as some funds will be utilized to create the new competitive scholarship program.*

## Fall 2026 | FY27 (and beyond):

- + Merit Aid Renewal Changes = approximately \$1-1.5M

# Managing non-resident merit aid & enrollment | Fall 2025

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- Implement “apply by” dates by residency
  - Earlier date for non-residents (ex: December 1 or February 1) to control new student merit offers.
  - Allows for budget control by pausing automatic merit aid and assess offers with projected yield allowing additional offers, as necessary to shape the class.
- Create and implement application based “premier” scholarship program for top non-residents to get closer to tuition/fees or other (i.e., campus housing support, meal plan covered, etc.)

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  - Residents have opportunities with Flinn, Stamps and Baird competitive scholarships.

# What's next to prep for fall 2025?

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- Arizona high school counselor email will go out tomorrow.
  - Out-of-State high school counselors will be informed in August.
  - Webpages detailing scholarship terms and conditions will be updated in June.
  - Conversations with campus will continue surrounding enrollment strategy, communications and more.
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- Application for admission opens in early July 2024 for fall 2025.

# Planning for fall 2026

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- Fall 2025
    - Changes implemented will be assessed, feedback will be sought
    - Planning will continue through the fall to determine changes to the admission timeline, how and when merit awards are offered, financial aid budget planning, amount of merit offers, etc.
  - Spring 2026
    - Proposal will be shared with campus partners, high school counselors, etc.
    - Feedback will be sought for suggestions, edits and tweaks.
    - Approved plan by late March/early April.
  - Summer 2026
    - Application goes live for fall 2026.
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Thank you to all who helped create this plan.  
Much appreciation to EM & UAIR for all the support  
and SPBAC for voting to advance this plan for  
implementation.

Questions or comments?

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